



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF  
ENFORCEMENT AND  
COMPLIANCE ASSURANCE

June 9, 2021

Ms. Amanda Garcia, Attorney  
Ms. Stephanie Biggs, Attorney  
Southern Environmental Law Center  
1033 Demonbreun Street, Suite 205  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Re: Request to Review December 31, 2020, Radionuclide Pollution Decision (Decision) Regarding Discharge of Radioactive Wastewaters at the Oak Ridge Reservation Facility in Oak Ridge, Tennessee

Ms. Garcia and Ms. Biggs:

Thank you for your May 26, 2021, letter to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding review of the above-referenced Decision. You have requested that: 1) EPA review and reconsider the Radionuclide Pollution Decision before authorizing any Record of Decision or other response-related decisions at the Oak Ridge Reservation site; 2) EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy provide additional opportunities for public comment based on the amount of new information that has developed; and 3) EPA provide an opportunity to discuss other aspects of Administrator Wheeler's final Decision.

Pursuant to President Biden's Executive Order 13990 issued on January 22, 2021, EPA is in the process of reviewing the Decision. We are also looking at the Decision in the context of Executive Orders 14008 and 13985, which direct federal agencies to promote and work towards proactively achieving environmental justice.

As to your second request, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) provides opportunities for meaningful public comment at various stages in the cleanup process. As the CERCLA process at the Oak Ridge Reservation site moves forward, EPA will work with DOE to consider opportunities for additional public comment.

EPA Region 4 is working on scheduling a meeting with you on Monday, June 14, 2021, to better understand your concerns about Administrator Wheeler's Decision.

We appreciate your advocacy for the communities impacted by the Oak Ridge Reservation and your interest in ensuring that the cleanup at the Oak Ridge Reservation is protective of human health and the environment.

Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

**LAWRENCE  
STARFIELD**

Digitally signed by  
LAWRENCE STARFIELD  
Date: 2021.06.09  
20:07:12 -04'00'

Lawrence E. Starfield  
Acting Assistant Administrator

cc: Carlton Waterhouse, Deputy Assistant Administrator, EPA Office for Land and Emergency  
Management  
Barry Breen, Acting Assistant Administrator  
John Blevins, Acting Regional Administrator, Region 4  
Melissa Hoffer, EPA Acting General Counsel  
Dimple Chaudhary, EPA Deputy General Counsel for Nationwide Resource Protection Programs  
Matt Lee-Ashley, Acting Chief of Staff, White House Council on Environmental Quality  
Virginia Dale, President, Advocates for Oak Ridge Reservation  
Axel Ringe, Water Quality Chair, Tennessee Chapter Sierra Club  
Sandra Gross, Executive Director, Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning